Two Men Charged With Illegal Sale Of 10,000 Guns

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NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP) — Two reputed top international arms traffickers have been arrested on a variety of charges stemming from the alleged sale of 10,000 machine guns to police posing as revolutionaries, the Manhattan district attorney announced today.

Frank Terpil, 40, of McLean, Va., and George Korkala, 38, of Nutley, N.J., were arrested yesterday at the New York Hilton Hotel by city police after the pair negotiated a $2 million sale with two undercover police, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

Also being held as a material witness, but not charged with any crime, was ex-Marine John Dutcher, 40, a self-described assassin and soldier of fortune who allegedly agreed to train an army in the use of weapons sold by the pair, Morgenthau said at a news conference.

The district attorney described Terpil and Korkala as freelance military specialists who harbor fugitives, sell illegal weapons and train terrorists and military activists through a series of front companies throughout the world.

He said Terpil sold $3.2 million in weapons, explosives and surveillance equipment to Uganda during the rule of exiled President Idi Amin, and operated various front businesses in Washington, Paris and Panama.

Terpil, fired by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1971, joined Korkala as a partner three years ago, the district attorney said.

Morgenthau said Korkala, who drives a car with diplomatic plates registered to the Ugandan mission to the United Nations, has been known to supply arms to Libya and countries in the Middle East.

FBI agents, armed with a search warrant, raided one of the pair's companies, Amstech Co. in Nutley, after the arrests and found a cache of sophisticated "sample weaponry."

Terpil and Korkala were arrested after undercover agents gave them a $56,000 down payment on the sale of 10,000 used MK2 and MK3 machine guns, to be delivered in 45 days, Morgenthau said the confiscated guns are being held in England.

The two men were charged in connection with the sale or supply of a Browning automatic pistol and the machine guns Saturday, and the sale or supply of a silenced sniper rifle, automatic pistol and other explosives on other dates.